

Message Text

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

AF - AMB. SCHAUFELLE

S/S- MR. SEBASTIAN

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TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

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NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, RH, SA

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR'S JANUARY 25 CALL
ON THE SECRETARY

1. AMBASSADOR BOTHA CALLED ON SECRETARY VANCE ON JANUARY 25 TO DISCUSS THE RHODESIAN SITUATION. HE TOLD THE SECRETARY THAT SMITH HAD NOT CONSULTED THE SOUTH AFRICANS BEFORE HE MADE HIS JANUARY 24 SPEECH AND THE SOUTH AFRICANS WERE EMBARRASSED BY IT. BOTHA RECALLED THAT AT OUR URGING THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAD ASKED SMITH NOT TO REJECT THE BRITISH PROPOSALS OUT OF HAND AND WERE GIVEN TO BELIEVE THAT SMITH WOULD NOT DO SO.

2. TO PROVE HIS GOVERNMENT'S GOOD FAITH, BOTHA REVIEWED IN SOME DETAIL THE HISTORY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE POINTED OUT THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD BROUGHT GREAT PRESSURE ON
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SMITH TO ACCEPT THE FIVE POINTS AND HAD COMMUNICATED TO SMITH SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MESSAGE THAT KAUNDA AND NYERERE HAD SEEN THE FIVE POINTS AND HAD NOT OBJECTED TO THEM. HAD THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD AN INDICATION OF AFRICAN RETICENCE THEY WOULD HAVE ADVISED SMITH TO SET HIS SIGHTS LOWER.

3. DURING VORSTER'S MEETING WITH IVOR RICHARD, THE

PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE BRITISH CHAIRMAN THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS RELUCTANT TO PRESSURE SMITH TO ACCEPT A NEW AGREEMENT IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE FIVE POINTS HAD NEVER BEEN FULLY TESTED. THE FRONT LINE AND NATIONALISTS REJECTION OF THE FIVE POINTS IN LUSAKA AND THE HISTORY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA WERE, BOTH IMPLIED, PROOF OF HOW UNRELIABLE THE AFRICANS WERE. VORSTER HAD ALSO BEEN DISPLEASED WITH RICHARD WHEN HE CLAIMED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD NOT BEEN FULLY AWARE OF KISSINGER'S FIVE POINTS WHEN THEY WERE NEGOTIATED IN PRETORIA. NEVERTHELESS, THE AMBASSADOR SAID, SOUTH AFRICA WAS PREPARED TO BE HELPFUL AND THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD SPEAK TO THE SUBJECT OF RHODESIA IN HIS STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 28. IN ORDER TO GIVE NO DOUBT ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION, BOTHA STRESSED SOUTH AFRICA'S UNHAPPINESS WITH THE FACT THAT EVERY CONCESSION ON RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA HAD BEEN MET BY ESCALATING AFRICAN DEMANDS.

4. IN REPLY, THE SECRETARY TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THE PRESIDENT HAD ASKED HIM TO CONVEY OUR ASSURANCE THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD CONTINUE ITS SEARCH FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. NEVERTHELESS, SMITH'S JANUARY 24 SPEECH HAD GREATLY COMPLICATED THE SITUATION. THE INTERNAL SOLUTION SMITH PROPOSED WAS NOT REALISTIC AND AS WE HAD TOLD SMITH IT HAD NO AMERICAN SUPPORT. SMITH'S INDICATION HE WOULD BE FLEXIBLE WITHIN THE FIVE
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POINTS WAS NO HELP.

5. SHOULD THE NEGOTIATIONS BECOME DEADLOCKED, SMITH WOULD BE FACED BY STIFF AMERICAN OPPOSITION. THE BYRD AMENDMENT WOULD BE REPEALED AND WE WILL REVIEW OUR POLICY OF SANCTIONS WITH A VIEW TO CLOSING LOOPHOLES.

6. THE SECRETARY TOLD BOTHA THAT WE ARE CONTINUING OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BRITISH, BUT NEED SOUTH AFRICA'S VIEWS AND EXPECT TO STAY IN CLOSE CONSULTATIONS.

7. CONCERNING NAMIBIA, THE SECRETARY INFORMED BOTHA WE HAVE COMMUNICATED TO THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS, THE NIGERIANS, AND OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS OUR COMMITMENT TO NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE AND A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. THE SECRETARY REMARKED WE ARE REVIEWING WHAT COULD BE DONE TO MOVE THE SETTLEMENT ALONG, BUT ADDED WE TRUST THAT SOUTH AFRICA WILL REFRAIN FROM TAKING ANY DECISIONS THAT MIGHT FORECLOSE THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INTERNATIONALLY

ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT. HE ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO

COMMUNICATE THE GIST OF HIS REMARKS ON RHODESIA TO
SALISBURY AND TOLD HIM WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO COMMUNICATE
TO HIS GOVERNMENT THROUGH HIM AND WILL RELY ON REGULAR

MEETINGS WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE TO MAKE SURE
THAT COMMUNICATIONS REMAIN EFFECTIVE.

8. BOTHA ASKED WHETHER WE WOULD PRESS AHEAD WITH A REPEAL
OF THE BYRD AMENDMENT IF SMITH SHOWED REAL FLEXIBILITY.
THE SECRETARY REPLIED A MOVE TO REPEAL WAS ALREADY UNDER
WAY IN THE CONGRESS AND IF ASKED THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD
SUPPORT IT. REPEAL OF THE BYRD AMENDMENT STOOD ON ITS
OWN MERITS.

9. AFTER THE MEETING, BOTHA WAS ASKED TO GIVE US AN AD-
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VANCE INDICATION OF WHAT VORSTER PLANS TO SAY ON FRIDAY AND
TO LET US HAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SAG VIEWS ON NEXT STEPS
IN THE RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT.
VANCE

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